

# Personal Stories

## *from* Our Parish

### The King Family

*There is a tradition in Winterslow to recognise families who have lived in and contributed to the Parish over decades, as is illustrated by the recent naming of the new development off Middleton Road as Keel Close, the story of which is for another day as this about the naming of Kings Corner and King's Paddock.*

*In 1765 Henry Fox, First Lord Holland, purchased The Manor and Estate of West Winterslow and gifted it to his son and heir Stephen, including Winterslow House located on the Pleasure Green off Livery Road, and his wife Lady Mary. They required a steward to manage the estate and turned to the continent and recruited David Le Roy who, following another change, fully anglicised his name to David King and so the details unfold.*

*David King, having built his own residence in 1768 in Livery Road, The Old Manor House (See photograph) and by 1774 finding himself in sole charge of the estate when the Fox family left the Parish as a result of their home being devastated by fire that year. Plans to rebuild Winterslow House were abandoned following the death of Stephen's mother, and his father in July 1774, and Stephen's own death in November 1774.*



*As photographed November 2020*

The Fox family maintained ownership of the estate for over 100 years. David King and his wife Rebeca had a large family, most of whom left the Parish, with the running of estate passing to Charles King and subsequently to Herbert his son, who took over in 1856 when Charles passed away. With his wife Elizabeth (Coleman) he raised a large family, with his eldest son John expected to follow the family tradition and take over from Herbert. In order to prepare him John was sent to gain business experience whilst working for Whitleys, a famous store in London. However when his father died prematurely at the age of 47 in 1875 he found himself back in Winterslow and at the age of only 17 running the farm. He married Anne Green and had 7 children, off the two boys Herbert (Ron) was the eldest.

John King was proactive in parish and church affairs being a churchwarden, Parish Overseer, Clerk to the School Managers and was instrumental in establishing the Winterslow Land Court in 1892. He was a member of the church choir and enthusiastic cricketer and member of the Winterslow Cricket Team.

Unfortunately John's wife Anne died in 1917, after suffering ill health for a long time, not long after their eldest son Herbert had been killed in action during April 1916 in the Persian Gulf. He eventually found himself alone running the farm, as his son Jack made the decision to move away. He managed the farm for 55 years until the mid 1930s when he was forced to sell. Having sold the farm he moved to Kingsdown in Winterslow, but in all that time he continued his community service. His record of service acts as testament to his commitment to the Parish, which ended in 1938 when he passed away aged 80.

### Achievements

- ◆ Establish and maintain Winterslow Land Court
- ◆ 50 years as a Church Warden
- ◆ 40 years as Assistant Overseer and Clerk to the Parish Council
- ◆ 50 years as School Manager and Correspondent
- ◆ 50 years as a Trustee of Winterslow Charities

Mick Brown

Acknowledgement: Wiltshire Community History

